

Remarks

The foregoing amendment does not attempt to add new matter to the present application for invention. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendment be entered and the claims submitted by the foregoing amendment be considered.

Upon entering of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-30 will be cancelled and Claims 31-95 will be pending in the present application for invention.

The Final Office Action dated October 10, 2003 rejected Claim 18-29 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,072,759 issued in the name of Maeda et al. (hereinafter referred to as Maeda '759). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 18-29 by the foregoing amendment. However, the Applicant would like to, respectfully, point out that Maeda '759 was filed as an original U.S. Application on April 1, 1999 with no claim to foreign priority. The present application for invention is based on parent U.S. Application No. 09/355,379, which has a foreign priority date well before the priority date of Maeda '759. Accordingly, Maeda '759 may not be used as a reference against the present application for invention.

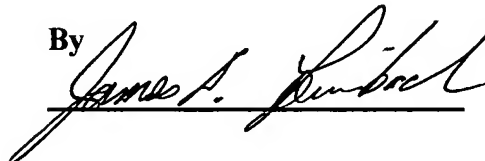
The foregoing amendment has made minor changes in wording used within the specification to the present application for invention. The foregoing amendment presents new claims similar in scope to previously allowed claims in the parent application. These newly presented claims avoid the previous rejection under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112 first-paragraph, as containing subject matter which is not described in the specification. Accordingly, it is believed that these newly presented claims are allowable.

Applicant is not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.99.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, with such allowance being, respectfully, requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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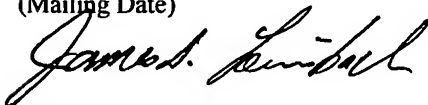
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